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## He Criticizes Analysis of CIA Protest

To the Editor:

After reading James Flansburg's signed "news analysis," "Student Protesters and Why They Act" [Jan. 22], my reaction was one of disbelief and profound disappointment. . . .

The reasons for my participation, and from conversations with other participants, for their own, bear almost no demonstrable connection with Flansburg's opinions. . . .

The aim was to force a consideration, in any quarter whatever, of the consequences to ourselves and to our nation of permitting a secret organization to actively interfere in the domestic affairs of other nations. . . .

The methods used are obviously distasteful and sensational, both to the public and to many of the demonstrators. But, I must ask, how does anyone who honestly believes that some of our governmental actions must be questioned if our nation as a free society is to survive, get those questions circulated, let alone asked or answered? . . .

It is interesting that The Register chose to separate this demonstration from its immediate cause by permitting Flansburg to lump it with any other demonstration, while intelligently approaching the real doubt concerning the operation of the CIA on the editorial page. . . .

It is ironical that the most telling point in Flansburg's "analysis," that protests end by imitating what they protest, applies much more closely to the CIA, which was created in 1949 to counteract the operations of the Russian equivalent, than to the loosely structured demonstration in Iowa City. The CIA . . . has become an alarming counterpart to the Communist organization, and, in the eyes of world opinion, has made the United States appear a much more convincing enemy of the people in emerging nations than the Soviet Union has ever been. . . .

The belief that the individual — not (to quote the editorial in Sunday's Register) men whose "reliability and judgment are unquestioned" — has a responsibility to question publicly the actions of our government, is inseparable from the fact of demonstrations and protests. . . .

The appalling failure of The Register to objectively connect and analyze the recent protest with its causes is merely another disheartening display of intellectual cowardice. . . . — Leroy F. Searle, 605 E. Sixth st., West Liberty, Ia.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have many times criticized CIA operations, and our columns are open for comment from others. Our editorial, referred to above, noted with approval formation of a Senate "watchdog" committee over CIA, a move we long have advocated. However, we do not condone interference with the rights of those seeking job interviews with the CIA.